THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

International Lesson for March 12, 1883 Eather Before the King-Esther 4:10-

GOLDEN TEXT .- Judge rightcousty, and pleas remain of the poor and needy -Prov. 31 9. His therd year. The great feast (1:3) B. C. 488. His seventh year. Esther made queen (2:16)

His thirteenth year. Haman's plot culmipated (3:7) B. C. 473. The time of the special lesson for to-day was therefore forty-six years before our last lesson, twenty-nine years before Nehemiah's free visit to Jerusalem and sixty-three years liter the first return of the exiles.

PLACE - Shushan (Susa), the winter capital of the Persian empire, about two hundred miles nearly east from Babylon, and one hundred and twenty-five miles north of the Persian gulf. The site of the ancient Susa has been explored, and remains of the great palace have been discovered. For a description, see The Book of Es-lier, by Rev J. W. Hairs. Place IN BIBLE HISTORY.—The Book of

Esther belongs in the fifty-eight years interval Errs. It was after the dedication of the sec-end temple, B. C. 515, and before Erra came to Julea, B. C. 456.

LESSON NOTES.

The Persian Empire. When, more than a century before this time, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and carried the Jews captive to Babylonia (606-586), he was the greatest king then living, his empire the most powerful, his capital the most magnificent. Then followed the seventy years' captivity. Nebuchadnezzar's successors were as little likely to permit the Jews to return as was the great king himself. But God saw the way out. When the time came, the Babylonian empire was conquered by Cyrns (538), and in 556 fifty thousand Jews returned from exile under Zerubbabel. In twenty years (515) the temple was built. Then came a pause of nearly sixty years in the history of the Jews. In the meantime the Medo-Persian empire had become larger than any previous one known in the world, and surrounded its chief with almost unimaginable splendor and wealth. Its ambition was to conquer Greece, and extend its sway over the known world. According to Keil the Persian empire in its whole extent from India to Ethiopia must have contained a population of at least one hundred million. Canon Rawlinson estimates the population at fifty millions. Xerzes, the Persian Emperor. The

Ahasuerus of Esther has been identified almost beyond doubt with Xerxes, the son of Darius Hystaspes (the one under whom the temple of Zerubbabel was completed.) The dates of Esther and of secular history agree, as a key fits a lock. Their Xerxes is the Greek shortened form of Ahasuerus. The martial deeds of Xerxes are fully told by Grecian historians, especially by Herodotus and Xenophon. He was remarkable for his natural beauty, but he was proud, self-willed, amorous, careless of contravening Persian customs, reckless of human life, yet not actually bloodthirsty. impetuous, facile, changeable.

The Great Feast. According to Herodstus, Nerxes held an assembly to arrange for the Greeian war in the third year of his reign, and it is probably this feast which is described in the first chapter of the book of Esther, as given to the nobles of the realm, assembled at Shushan from all parts of the empire. It lasted one hundred and eighty days or six months. The king, having before this conquered Egypt, determined "to lay a bridge over the Hellespont, and to transport an army into Greece to punish the Athenians" for their defeat of his father Darius at Marathon. Then he added: "I intend to march through all the parts of Europe, and to reduce the whole earth into one empire; being assured that no city or nation will dare to resist my arms." At this long-continued fete were gathered the chief officers and nobles of the whole empire. Everything was done to impress upon them the greatness and power of the king, and the unlimited

resources at his command. The War with Greece. An interval of four years occurs before a new queen is found in place of Vashti. It was during this interval that his great invasion of Greece took place. Dipping his pen in the life-blood of Persan's noblest, he wrote for himself a record on fame's glittering temple. It is said that the army with which he invaded Greece numbered 5,283,220 souls, exclusive of women and other attendants. This multitude was met at Thermopylæ by Leonidas and his 300 Spartans, at whose hands 20,000 Persans fell August 7, 480 B. C. Two months later the Persians were terribly defeated in the great naval battle of Salamis. Themistocles, with 380 Greek vessels, defeated Xerxes with 2,000 sail. This disaster was closely followed by others, which compelled Xerxes to abandon the field and return home with scarcely 5,000 soldiers left of all the multitude with which he set out.

Queen Esther. After the return of Xerxes thus defeated, he ceased for a time from warfare, and sought consolation in the pleasures of the harem. At this time, the seventh year of his reign (2:16), occurs the story of Esther's elevation to the throne as given in chapters 1 and 2. She must have been Young at this time, between fifteen and eighteen years old; for maidens in Persia (says Justi) are in their glory at twelve, and fade by the age of twenty. She was very beautiful; and she seems to have preserved her purity and beauty of character, even amid the baseness of an Oriental court. Esther has not been identified with any queen mentioned in secular history. The Persian emperors had many wives, so that it is not strange that Esther is not mentioned in secular history. It would be strange if she had been.

-"It is a principal effect or love to unite the wills of those who love, so as to make them but one and the same will." He who gives his will to God, gives him everything-property. talents, heart, all.-Liquori.

-It is another's fault if he be ungrateful, but it is mine if I do not give. To find one thankful man, I will oblige a great many that are not so .-- Seneca.

-Honesty is the best policy, because it is the only policy which insures PORK New Mess

THE WOMAN WHO EATS. Nothing So Remarkable Has Ever Boon Seen Outside the Museum.

flave you ever seen her-the woman who cats? asks the New York Recorder. If not you should, for outside of a museum no dag so remarkable was ever seen. She generally lives at a hotel run on the American plan and evidently feels in duty bound to take everything on the bill of tare la order to sal her money's worth. It never occurs to her to skip one single thing, yet every meal she studies the menu with an interest as absorbing as though she were only to be allowed one portion, and that one she was downfined to have the best. When als exhaustive survey is finished are leans back in her chair, lock up at the waiter in attendance with a coy, sweet smile and says: "I will commence with oysters." If there was anything ahead of oysters for her to begin with she would do so, for she is a systematic feeder and will go on religiously through soup, fish, entrees, roasts, vegetables, salads and desserts until the weary waiter confides to a sympathizing confrere that it is his private opinion that she is the India-rubber girl. When at last the finishing sip of coffee has been swallowed she dips her fingers in the bowl of water near at hand, gathers up what she has not eaten of the fruit and passes out, leaving the waiter to wonder at the appetite of a creature that looks above such mundane peculiarities, yet she leaves enough soiled dishes and crumbs in her wake to establish forever her reputation as a performer who would make her mark if an eating contest were ever arranged.

THE "HOLY CITRON."

Its Only Use Is In the Feast of the Taber-

One of the most curious species of known fruit is the "holy or sacred citron" of the Jews. Its virtues are lauded to the skies and it is celebrated in legend, romance, poetry and song, countries, but appears to be most highly esteemed by the Moorish Jews of Tunis and Morocco, On the streets of the last named city it is sold at about eight cents per fruit. These fruits are generally purchased by bands of roving pilgrims, the members of religious pracessions and Jewish priests When one of these sacred citrons falls into the hands of a priest he takes it to the synagogue, where it is kept to be used in some emblematical rite during the time of the great "Feast of the Tabernacles." Not only in oriental countries are these holy fruits known and esteemed, but in Germany, Russia, France, Spain and in England. They are probably used in American Jewish synagogues to some extent, but such use would be necessarily limited. In England, so I am informed, good speciand suitable for the home or the office, by synagogues to some extent, but such mens of holy citrons bring as much as fifty shillings each, there being whole companies which make their importation a "side line."

The use of this unique fruit is supposed to be derived from the injunction contained in the twenty-third chapter of the book of Leviticus.

"SNOLLYGOSTER" AN OLD WORD

First Used in 1848 by a Vigorous if Proface Georgia Campaign Orator.

The word "snollygoster" was first used to describe a place-hunting demagegue, says Col. Ham, of Georgia, back in 1848, when the Niagara incident threatened war with England. There was a joint debate that year in a Georgia town between John Kelly and Jonas Gaines, rival candidates for the legislature, and Kelly spoke first. The chief plank of his platform, by the way, was that the president should seize all the roads to Liverpool so as to prevent a salt famine in case of war. After he had declaimed with great effect on the necessity of plenty of salt, Gaines arose and spoke these wellremembered words: "Fellow-citizens, of there's anything on top side of earth that males me mad, it's ter see a snollygoster of a feller a continually a swipin' aroun' after the orthography ov a little office what he kain't never git, and hain't got sense enough to fill if he could git it." Finally be reached the salt question, and raising himself on his tiptoes, he yelled: "Liverpool-huh!-North Carolina salt is a durned sight salter, and there's a dozen roads to the works." Gaines won the debote and was elected

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 4, 1891.

CATTLE -Native Steers \$	4 50	68	5 50
COTTON-Middling		66	914
FLOUR Winter Wheat	2 10		4 25
WHEAT No 2 Red		5.66	7914
CORN-No. 2		1600	MM
OATS Western Mixed	38	60	- 3915
PORK-New Mess.	CHRICK	52	20.00
ST. LOUIS.		-	
COTTON-Middling	9	62	914
BEEVES Choice Steers	4 80	62	5.50
Medium	1 30	. 63	5 70
HOGS Fair to Select	7 00	64	7 90
SHEEP-Pair to Choice	3 75	40	5-50%
PLOUR-Patents	3 35	60,	3 50
Fancy to Extra Do	200	66	3 10
WHEAT No. 2 Red Winter		1600	68
CORN-No. 2 Mixed	37	500	38
OATS-No. 2	1200	. 63	32%
RYE No 2	50	99	53
TORACCO-Lugs	1 10	63	5 10
Leaf, Burley	4 50	200	7 10
HAY-Clear Timothy	10 00		12.50
BUTTER-Choice Dairy	20	0	21
EGGS Fresh	rect	92	1514
PORK-Standard Mess (new)	4440	199	10 25
HACON-Clear Rib	1444	90	1116
LARD Prime Steam	THEFT	96	12%
CHICAGO,			
CATTLE-Shipping.	2 50	TE.	6.50
HOGS Fair to Choice	7.50	66	8.50
SHEEP-Fair to Choice	3 184		4 75
FLOUR-Wister Patents	3 60		4.00
Spring Patents	2 70	.00	4 10
WHEAT-No. 2. Spring	- 38	1100	75%
No. 2 Red	78	196	75%
CORN-No.2	17732	53	4336
DATS No. 2		100	31
The state of the s	18 67	1460	18 70
KANSAS CITY.			500
CATTLE-Shipping Steers	3 55		5 25
HOGS All Grades	5 75		8 00
WHEAT-No. 2 Red	73	9	2015
OATS-No.2	29	-63	2016
CORN-No.2		-48	31
NEW ORLEANS	4		
FLOUR-High Grade	3 40	a	2 45
CORN No. 2	the same	1	50
OATS Western	10000	56	39
HAY-Choice	17 50	62	14.00
PORK-New Moss		62	19 5)
HACON-Sides		62	1134

CINCINNATI

COTTON Middling

-A French president of assize, of a turn of mind at once skeptical and statistical, makes an interesting state ment in regard to women and their ages. The only case, he says, in which a woman's own report of the number of her years is to be trusted are before she is twenty-five and after she is eighty-five. Up to the former limit a girl is rather anxious to pose for a woman of the world, and after the latter limit each additional year is an added dis tinction. He gives a rule by which a woman's age may be approximated, even when she is bent upon concealing it. He finds that female prisoners invariable state their ages as twentynine, thirty-nine, forty-nine or fiftynine, and from this coincidence of nines he deduces his rule. If their age is in the forties, they set it down as in the thirties, but conscience or some other femine subtlety asserts itself and they fix the figure as near the truth as their vanity will permit-mak-

ing it thirty-nine. There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly falling to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address, F. J. Chener & Co., Toledo, O.

Wirn all respect to the proverb, it may be stated that it is not necessary to give the devil his due. He is quite competent to collect it with interest.—Washington Star.

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It's the man who has no music in his soul that is able to harp on the faults of others. —Inter Ocean.

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Author of "Common Sense in the Household."

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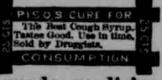
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